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Letter dated 23 March 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations Office at Geneva requests that the attached document*, "The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia - Kosovo and Metohija", be circulated as an official document of the fifty-fourth session of the Commission, under agenda item 10.

(Signed) Miroslav MILOŠEVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* The annex is circulated as received, in the language of submission only.

Annex

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

- Kosovo and Metohija -

Due to the long, uninterrupted separatist activities of a part of the political representatives of the Albanian ethnic minority, a political crisis was provoked artificially in order to internationalize the problem and attain international support for the achievement of the basic political goal of the secession of Kosovo and Metohija from the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

It is a historical fact that since the sixth century, and for 1,300 years already, Kosovo and Metohija has been the cradle of Serbian statehood and of its culture, which is attested by the greatest concentration of Serbian medieval monasteries and other cultural monuments.

Until the Turks came to the Balkans and began their domination in this part of Serbia at the end of the fourteenth century, the Serbian capital (Prizren) and the seat of the Serbian patriarchate (Pec) were located there.

That Kosovo and Metohija is part of Serbia had also been confirmed by the London Treaty of 1912.

With the Turkish occupation, the Serbs were gradually pushed out of the region towards the North and West (towards Budapest and Vienna) Kosovo and Metohija was settled with islamized Albanians.

Consequently, even in the fourteenth century the process of ethnic cleansing of Serbs from Kosovo and Metohija started and the regions's resettlement with Albanians began. However, that has never brought into question the fact that Kosovo and Metohija is an integral part of Serbia until the present day.

The process of ethnic cleansing of the Serbs from Kosovo and Metohija has continued over the entire period of history, particularly during periods of occupation of Kosovo and Metohija by foreign conquerors.

Between 250,000 and 300,000 Serbs and Montenegrins currently live in Kosovo and Metohija. During the seventies and the eighties under pressure and as a result of an aggressive ideology of Albanian separatism, almost 200,000 Serbs and Montenegrins left the region. Most of them now live in Belgrade, Kragujevac, Krusevac, Kraljevo and in other larger towns in Serbia.

They have been expelled by various methods, ranging from threats, burning of homes, mass destruction of gravestones, blackmail, to murders and execution of entire Serb families.

The cases of the Milacic, Martinovic and many other families whose many members were ambushed and killed, are well known. Attacks on historical and cultural monuments, their destruction or damage, was also part of the methods of Albanian separatists to arouse fear and to force Serbs out.

Thus, the case of raging Albanian terrorists who gouged out the eyes of a fresco painting at the twelfth-century monastery of Devic has entered the European and international records of vandalism and terrorism.

At the end of 1997, and particularly in 1998, terrorism broke out suddenly with an aim of destabilizing the situation and internationalizing the problem. In the activities of the State authorities of the Republic of Serbia, on 28 February and 5 March 1998, the bulk of terrorist forces in Kosovo and Metohija was crushed, and order and peace were restored.

However, these activities were used in some foreign circles as a pretext to internationalize this issue and put new pressures on the Republic of Serbia and the FR of Yugoslavia. Contrary to all international norms and the usual practice, the question of Kosovo and Metohija is being placed on the agenda of some international organizations and bodies. Ultimatums and threats of sanctions loom over the Republic of Serbia and the FR of Yugoslavia.

Liquidation of terrorists is being interpreted as State repression, which is de facto leading to tacit support not only of separatism but terrorism as well.

Legal status: Kosovo and Metohija is one of the two autonomous provinces within the Republic of Serbia. The legal status of the provinces is regulated in the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia and is equal for both provinces.

In Vojvodina, the other autonomous province where 27 national minorities live, accounting for 44 per cent of Vojvodina's total population, there is no inter-ethnic tension.

The members of the predominant Serb population and national minorities live in harmony and fully exercise their constitutional and legal rights, including human and civil rights and the rights granted to national minorities (schools in mother tongue, additional national programmes in the framework of the education programmes of the Republic of Serbia, public media in the languages of national minorities, fostering their own language and culture, etc.).

In Kosovo and Metohija where the Albanian national minority is predominant, the situation is totally different. The members of the Albanian national minority deliberately refuse to exercise some of the rights they have been granted.

Even when they do, they hide it in order to leave the impression with the international political structures and media that they have been allegedly stripped of their rights and that their existence has been threatened, in an attempt to justify foreign interference into internal affairs of the Republic of Serbia.

Members of the Albanian ethnic minority do not use one of the basic political rights - the right of universal suffrage in the Republic of Serbia and the FRY. The reason for this, apart from boycotting the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and its state organs and institutions, is a deliberate attempt

at manipulating the international community, as well as their fear that by going to the poles an insight would be gained as to the true number of the Albanian ethnic minority in Kosovo and Metohija.

In this way they are losing the possibility of influencing political life on the local, provincial, republican and federal level and participating in the decision-making process and adoption of laws which directly pertain to their status and interests. Such conduct mostly harms the members of the Albanian national minority, causing tensions and inter-ethnic conflicts and slows down the province's development.

At the same time, this is contrary to articles 20 and 21 of the Framework Convention of the Council of Europe on the protection of national minorities which calls for the loyalty of the members of the national minority to the State they live in. The reason for such behaviour of a part of members of the Albanian national minority is fear caused by threats and blackmail by separatist and terrorist leaders.

This is convincingly proven by the fact that more than half of the victims of terrorists in Kosovo and Metohija are members of the Albanian national minority. Their only "sin" was that they have demonstrated loyalty towards Serbia as their State.

Republics of Serbia and Montenegro comprise the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. By their Constitutions they have been defined as States of equal citizens. The rights of members of national minorities in the FRY have been guaranteed also in accordance with the international documents in this field, as well as with the Council of Europe Framework Convention for protection of national minorities, which the Governments of Serbia and the FRY fully accept and respect.

The Governments of the FRY and of the Republic of Serbia cannot possibly be responsible for failure to exercise the rights guaranteed under the Constitution and the laws.

In peace and harmony: In its policy, the Government of Serbia makes a clear distinction between the overwhelming majority of the members of Albanian national minority who live and work normally, who wish to exercise their rights in peace and harmony with other citizens of Serbia and Yugoslavia on the one hand, and separatist leaders who offer false promises, backwardness, uncertainty and poverty.

The Government of Serbia is ready for any dialogue with the members of any national minority on possible inconsistencies of the legal system of the Republic of Serbia regarding national minorities or some shortcomings in the exercise of human, civil or national rights of national minorities. Wishing to do the best it can to assist in their full exercise, the Government of the Republic of Serbia charged a Minister in the Government of the Republic of Serbia to deal exclusively with the problems related to human and minority rights. Nevertheless, nowhere in the world is there negotiation with secessionists and terrorists, since they attack the country's territorial integrity and peace and security of the citizens.

Separatism: For many years now, the separatist leadership has had secession of Kosovo as its political goal and platform. As of late, encouraged by certain outside support they even claim that publicly, which unfortunately does not meet with adequate reaction of the international factors that offer relatively lukewarm reactions to this flagrant violation of one of the basic foundations of the international relations - preservation of the State borders and territorial integrity of the States.

In doing so, they ignore the positions of major international factors that there should be no support for separatism, that the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Serbia and the FRY have to be respected. That leadership refuses dialogue which would lead to solutions to concrete questions within Serbia - they insist on their position all or nothing!

To the extent that the region of the former Yugoslavia is being stabilized, owing to the great contribution of the FRY, through the implementation of the Dayton/Paris peace agreement - the separatist leadership, supported by certain foreign circles - does its best to create the atmosphere of tension and instability. On that basis, they seek pressures on the FRY and the internationalization of the issue.

In such conditions, a number of extremist leaders opted for terrorism as a means to an end, whereas others still have not distanced themselves from it. It should be pointed out that political representatives of the Albanian national minority have monopolized Kosovo and Metohija seeking to leave the impression that except for the Serbs, Montenegrins and Albanians there are no other national minorities. On the contrary, there are other national minorities and ethnic communities in Kosovo and Metohija who have been equally threatened by the Albanian separatism and terrorism.

At the most recent population censuses, under the influence of separatist-oriented leaders, the majority of the Albanian ethnic minority did not take part. The last official census in 1981 was taken by the ethnically pure census commission which, by methods of pressure and falsification, practically registered all other national minorities and ethnic communities, in particular Roma, the Muslims, Turks, Goranies and others as Albanians.

During the 1981 census, a large number of illegal immigrants from Albania, who have not as yet been able to prove that they were born in Kosovo and Metohija or that they have acquired the nationality of Serbia or to that end of the FRY, have been registered. There is today plenty of evidence to that effect.

Since the pressures of separatist ideology are lasting for a long time, the estimates of an approximate number of the Albanian ethnic population were, naturally and as a rule, blown out of proportion so as to use these huge figures to manipulate the international public and factors. Therefore, estimates that there are some 800,000 ethnic Albanians living in Kosovo and Metohija are realistic.

On the other hand, according to official statements by high European officials and representatives of a number of EU member States, as many

as 400,000- 500,000 Albanians now live and work in Western Europe. Judging by all known facts, they are firmly determined to settle there permanently, regardless of the pressure put on them to return home.

These pressures are partly the result of increased unemployment in the countries of Western Europe and partly the result of the social, security and similar risks (the narco mafia, arms smuggling, organized crime, illegal border crossing, etc.)

Terrorism: Terrorism is not new in Kosovo and Metohija. It is a proven method of a number of generations of secessionists on Kosovo and Metohija. It has been stepped up every time when the international situation was right. The sharp increase of terrorism in Kosovo and Metohija in the past two years, particularly in 1998, proves that it has been well prepared by outside sponsors and financial support of organized crime (Albanian mafia). The separatists in Kosovo and Metohija believe that the right time for forcible secession has come.

Their basic goal, in addition to intimidation of the population and causing instability, is to have the problem internationalized with a view to engaging foreign factors in its resolution, from which they expect assistance in achieving secession. However, it should not be forgotten that terrorism is one of the present day scourges and that it has been publicly condemned by most of the countries in the world, including the most influential ones.

Combating terrorism is a priority for many countries. The widespread character of terrorism necessitated close cooperation among the States in its combating. To illustrate the seriousness of the problem in Kosovo and Metohija one should consider the following facts: in the period from 1991 until 5 March 1998, 200 terrorist attacks have been carried out (in 1996 - 31, in 1997 - 55, in the first two and a half months in 1998 - 86). In the period since 1994, Albanian terrorists attacked members of Albanian national minority 44 times. In 1996, they killed 4, in 1997 - 1 and in 1998 - 5 police officers. At the same time they killed 6 civilians in 1996, 10 in 1997 and 8 in 1998.

On 28 February they ambushed and killed 4 police officers. In the ensuing defensive activity, 16 terrorists were liquidated and 9 captured.

On 5 March 1998, in the village of Donje Prekaze, a terrorist base was taken out along with 25 terrorists including their leader Adem Jashari. Before attacking the terrorist base, the police asked them to surrender and invited civilians, women and children to leave the base. Some 30 members of the Albanian national minority heeded the call and safely left the scene.

It is evident that terrorism and terrorists have nothing in common with the interests of the members of Albanian minority, inflicting on them enormous harm, suffering and direct victims instead.

The Government of the Republic of Serbia and of the FRY expect the representatives of the political parties of the Albanian national minority to publicly and unequivocally distance themselves from terrorism on Kosovo and Metohija which they have failed to do so far. Foreign countries are expected

not only to clearly and unequivocally condemn the terrorism in Kosovo and Metohija but to offer assistance and cooperation in its suppression.

Organized crime in the service of secession: Separatist goals of a part of the Albanian national minority in Kosovo and Metohija are linked to tight family and social organization and tribal solidarity (similar to Sicily), contributing to a faster development of international organized crime among the members of the Albanian national minority in Kosovo and Metohija and the Albanians from Albania, Macedonia and Greece and the creation of the so-called Albanian mafia. Drug-trafficking in Europe and the USA, and to a certain extent prostitution, are controlled in most part by the "Albanian mafia".

The criminal activity certainly includes the 3 per cent protection racquet on income, which the members of the Albanian national minority in Kosovo and Metohija and elsewhere have to "pay" to their leadership. From these substantial resources long-standing separatist and terrorist activities in Kosovo and Metohija have been financed.

What is at stake is not only the purchase of arms and smuggling, financing of training of terrorist groups abroad, financing of long-standing "political" activities of entire parallel (illegal) political, education and economic structures in Kosovo and Metohija in the wake of the boycott of the legal institutions of the system of the Republic of Serbia and the FR Yugoslavia but the financing of intensive propaganda activity not only in Kosovo and Metohija, but in Europe and the USA.

They are not engaging only prominent, very expensive PR agencies, various political and economic lobbies, but numerous non-governmental humanitarian or other organizations, associations, funds or professions (doctors, journalists, etc).

Therefore numerous reports and articles, coverage or footage "proving" that human, civil or national rights of the Albanian national minority have been threatened in Kosovo and Metohija, are the best illustration of how much money is invested in the project of secession of Kosovo and Metohija from the Republic of Serbia and FR of Yugoslavia.

At the same time, they illustrate the profits of the "Albanian mafia" criminal activities affecting the health of young people all over the world, Europe, USA and Canada in particular.

Demonstrations: Kosovo Albanians have a long history of demonstration.

At first, they protested over certain problems which have arisen in the exercise of their minority rights. Later on, they demonstrated because of their dissatisfaction with the constitutional status of Kosovo and Metohija under the Constitution of 1974 (the same status which they now allegedly seek) to stage henceforth openly separatist demonstrations.

More recently, there have been several such demonstrations in Kosovo and Metohija which the biased, in particular foreign, media have portrayed as "non-violent", although they have been anything but non-violent.

Also, the demonstration of the second March in Pristina were not only violent, which TV footage (throwing of stones, smashing of windows) clearly shows, but they were not notified either, even though that was an obligation under the law (which was probably due to the boycott of the government institutions or was precisely aimed at provoking police reaction).

However, what is particularly important insofar as demonstrations are concerned is that the demonstrations were in defence of terrorists and separatists and that the protestors acted precisely like that - they were destructive. Whether the police had acted properly in every respect is to be determined by the appropriate authorities and they will take appropriate measures if these allegations are proven right.

Dialogue: Secessionist Albanian leaders frequently accuse the government authorities of the Republic of Serbia and the FRY that they refuse dialogue. Such accusations are adopted by some foreign factors requesting the Government of Serbia to "open" a dialogue with the Albanian ethnic community.

However, the Government of Serbia has always been in favour of dialogue and has on various occasions and in various ways initiated on its own discussions with the representatives of the Albanian ethnic community demonstrating readiness to talk about all problems related to the exercise of human, civil and minority rights.

However, the leaders of the Albanian ethnic community do not want a dialogue because their goal is to secede from the Republic of Serbia and the FRY and not to address minority rights.

The Government of the Republic of Serbia remains open to resolve all specific issues regarding the position and exercise of the rights of persons belonging to ethnic minorities in Kosovo and Metohija and in the Republic as a whole through dialogue and within Serbia and they are looking forward to any initiative coming from any minority living in the Republic of Serbia.

That there is a lack of will for dialogue on the part of the leaders of the Albanian ethnic community is irrefutably proved by their rejection of the invitation for talks addressed by the Government of the Republic of Serbia on 11, 12 and 16 of March 1998.

In spite of numerous pressures from all quarters including from abroad, ethnic Albanian leaders have not accepted an open, unconditional and public dialogue, while Ibrahim Rugova stated in public on 11 March 1998 that "they do not want to talk about any form of autonomy except for independence for Kosovo only".

That this was not the first time is also evidenced by the fact that after a lot of effort put into the search for generally accepted solutions for the implementation of the Education Agreement of 1996, it took 6 months for Ibrahim Rugova, after the final signing of the Agreement, to appoint his three representatives on the 3+3 group.

Education: Elementary state schools in general and more than 90 per cent of secondary schools in the Albanian language normally work. As far as the Government of the Republic of Serbia is concerned, there are no obstacles for full normalization even of university education.

The Government's attitude in this respect is a positive one. (About 1,200 ethnic Albanians continue to study at the University of Pristina even today.) What needs to be pointed out is that the fundamental disagreement with respect to education is not that the Serbian authorities prevent Albanian children from attending classes in state schools, as it is often portrayed in foreign media, but that the ethnic Albanians refuse to receive education according to the curricula of the Republic of Serbia with all specific programmes applied as in the case of the classes organized for members of the Hungarian, Slovak, Ruthenian or any other national minority.

Insistence on such an approach is not only odd, but is doing a huge damage to those children who are prevented from attending school regularly.

Alleged violation of human and minority rights: The proposition that human, civil and minority rights of persons belonging to the Albanian ethnic minority in Kosovo and Metohija are violated is the most frequent accusation levelled at the Republic of Serbia and the FR of Yugoslavia.

It is aimed at discrediting the Republic of Serbia and the FRY and at creating the impression of such a violation of these rights that no solution other than complete secession from the motherland can help the protection of their rights.

That is why the alleged violation of these rights forms the cornerstone of their efforts to secede from the Republic of Serbia and the FRY. The best proof that their human and civil rights are not violated is the fact that many ethnic minorities live in the Republic of Serbia and the FRY without any problems and they enjoy all the advantages as well as equal treatment both as citizens and as members of their respective ethnic minorities.

The Republic of Serbia and the FRY as multiethnic communities, in which 27 national minorities and ethnic groups constitute a third of the population, have elaborated in their constitutions an entire system of guarantees of minority rights to foster, develop and express their ethnic, linguistic and cultural specific characteristics through special advantages in schooling, information, freedom of religion and social and political organizations.

They exercise all other rights as any other citizens. Drawing upon the rich experience of the former multiethnic and multi-confessional state (SFRY), the legislation in the field of minority rights goes beyond the international standards in the field.

However, what is of even greater significance is that these are all fully exercised also in practice. Groundlessness of the allegation about the lack of minority rights including the Albanian ethnic minority who are only complaining about it, is testified to by the fact that at present there are

52 daily and weekly newspapers published in the Albanian language in Kosovo and Metohija, along with other periodicals having an annual circulation of over 2.5 million, a circulation higher than that in all of Albania.

If the right to impart and receive information is one of the most basic "modern" rights of this age, then the Albanian ethnic minority in Kosovo and Metohija can be considered as an advantaged rather than disadvantaged group.

Persons belonging to ethnic minorities are also guaranteed the right to a free elementary school education in their own language, the Albanians included.

Local self-government: A new law on local self-government has been drafted; it contains many new solutions including a bicameral assembly in Kosovo and Metohija, preventing overrule of any part of the population and guaranteeing equality in the decision-making on many issues relevant for the development and improvement of the quality of life of all the population regardless of their ethnic origin.

It is a fact that a large number of persons belonging to the Albanian ethnic minority do not object to their status within Serbia and Yugoslavia, regardless of whether they live in Kosovo and Metohija or in other places (e.g. about 80,000 citizens of Albanian ethnic origin normally live and work in Belgrade).

The right to foster one's own ethnic identity, language, culture and tradition is guaranteed to persons belonging to all ethnic minorities including the Albanian ethnic minority in Kosovo and Metohija.

In Kosovo and Metohija as well as in the whole territory of Serbia and Yugoslavia, full equality of citizens employed in the public and private sectors is guaranteed: the right of ownership, equal opportunities in employment, equality in the exercise of the rights related to health, education, culture, religion and the media.

Current situation: The situation in Kosovo and Metohija is calm and under control. All economic, social and other activities including transport operate normally. There have been no exceptional movements of the military nor any military call-ups.

Following the police actions of 28 February and 5 March 1998, which were exclusively aimed at neutralizing terrorist groups that have posed a threat to the population of Kosovo and Metohija by their activities, which interfered with the normal life and safety of citizens and impeded regular traffic around the village of Drenica, the situation has been brought back to normal and is controlled by the state authorities of the Republic of Serbia.

Many foreign diplomats and journalists who visited Kosovo and Metohija including Drenica area on 8 March were able to see it for themselves. The police performed their regular duties of maintaining the peace and public order. It is absolutely untrue that the police have been revengeful in their actions, that they ill-treated and killed the civilians, that they raped women

as well as many other similar falsehoods. The police have always acted in defence, respecting the law and the code of conduct for law enforcement officials.

Statements to the effect that "conflicts in Kosovo and Metohija" threaten to spill over into the neighbouring countries and that they are a threat to the stability of the entire region, are totally without foundation, since there are no conflicts in Kosovo and Metohija.

There are certain political tensions aimed at internationalizing the problem, as the most important political parties of the Albanian ethnic minority more or less publicly advocate separatism and none of them have openly and in public distanced themselves from terrorism.

True to its policy of openness for any dialogue and determined to solve all issues affecting the exercise of human and civil rights of all the population of Kosovo and Metohija by political means as well as to achieve a more rapid economic and cultural development in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, with European and international standards, OSCE principles, the Paris Charter and the United Nations Charter as well as the principles embodied in the Council of Europe Framework Convention on the protection of national minorities, the Government of the Republic of Serbia invited through the media on 10 March 1998 representatives of the Albanian ethnic community for public and unconditional talks.

Representatives of the Serbian Government and those of the political parties represented in the Parliament of Serbia came in vain to the talks scheduled for 11 March, because the Albanian political leaders did not show up on the pretext that they had not been personally invited.

The same day, 11 March, the Government of Serbia renewed its invitation for the following day, 12 March, but this time inviting political leaders and respected public figures of Albanian ethnic origin in person. Nevertheless, representatives of the Albanian ethnic community did not show up either on 12 March, thus proving that they are not ready for an open and, in particular, not for a public dialogue.

Obviously, the realization of human, civil and minority rights of the Albanian ethnic community in Kosovo and Metohija is not their political goal but rather the achievement of secession through the internationalization of a non-existent problem.

The best illustration of this is Ibrahim Rugova's statement of 11 March (in response to the invitation by the Government of the Republic of Serbia for dialogue), which was reported by the entire international press, to the effect that for them (members of the Albanian ethnic minority in Kosovo and Metohija) "any autonomy short of independence for Kosovo is unacceptable".

Regardless of the fact that the representatives of the Albanian ethnic community have not come to the offered public and unconditional discussions on two occasions already, the Government of the Republic of Serbia repeated, on 14 March, its personal invitation to the political leaders and eminent public

figures of Albanian ethnic origin for discussions on 16 March. The representatives of the Albanian minority again did not accept the invitation for dialogue.

However some other national minorities and ethnic communities living in Kosovo and Metohija such as the Turks, Roma and the Muslims have expressed their interest in these talks. In their requests for participation in the talks they pointed out their loyalty to the Republic of Serbia, respect to the institutions of the system and the desire to discuss with the relevant institutions and individuals the specific problems related to the exercise of their minority rights, which the Government of the Republic of Serbia accepted.

Misconceptions: On the basis of the foregoing, it is clear that the conceptions created in the international public and in political structures and spread by some media and lobbies that the rights of the Albanian ethnic community are violated in Kosovo and Metohija are absolutely without any foundation.

Their sole objective is to encourage international factors to help them achieve secession. Unprecedented anti-Serb and anti-Yugoslav language used by individuals are yet another proof of bias towards this problem and the best illustration of a long-term engagement in support of separatism and terrorism in Kosovo and Metohija as well as of continued activities aimed at jeopardizing the territorial integrity of Serbia and the FRY.

Political positions of the FRY and the Republic of Serbia vis-a-vis Kosovo and Metohija: As part of the Republic of Serbia, Kosovo and Metohija is an internal affair of this Republic and there is no basis in international law for considering it outside this framework. The FRY and the Republic of Serbia accept all the provisions of the Framework Convention on the protection of national minorities including the position that the rights of persons belonging to ethnic minorities are also subject to international cooperation.

However, the FRY opposes attempts at internationalizing the problem of Kosovo and Metohija and imposing of solutions contrary to the constitutional system of the country and international standards. This is interference in the internal affairs of Serbia and it is therefore unacceptable. To use double standards in relation to terrorism is unacceptable if one wants to fight terrorism as an universal scourge effectively.

Attempts to equate terrorist attacks and defence against terrorist attacks, i.e. legitimate police action aimed at suppressing terrorist actions, protecting the citizens against terror and maintaining peace and public order, create confusion and imply support to terrorism, which is impermissible and dangerous. To accept or minimize the danger of terrorism in Kosovo and Metohija by references to alleged police violence is leading nowhere.

Equating terrorism with legitimate police action to suppress it deliberately sows confusion and covers up support for terrorism and separatism.

What the FRY expects of other countries:

- Strong and unequivocal condemnation of terrorism;

- Pressure on the leaders of some members of the Albanian ethnic community to condemn terrorism in unequivocal terms and to abandon the publicly declared programme of secession;

- Support to the principled position that all specific problems concerning the enjoyment of minority rights must be resolved through dialogue within Serbia and in accordance with international standards, i.e. the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the protection of minorities which the Government of Serbia fully accepts and respects;

- Cooperation on issues related to the exercise of minority rights but not imposition of solutions from outside and interference in the sovereign affairs of Serbia and the FRY;

- Rejection of the method of disinformation, artificial heightening of tension, application of double standards, attempts at internationalization;

- Refusal to consider the problem in Kosovo and Metohija in international organizations or in any international fora since it concerns an internal problem of the Republic of Serbia;

- Support to the FRY as a constructive factor of the peace process, stability and development in the region, normalizing its status in international political, economic and financial organizations and institutions.